

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 8 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

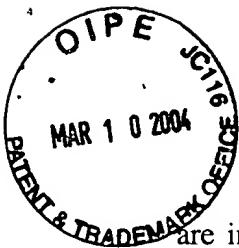
#### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) alleging it to be anticipated by Azima et al. The Examiner alleges that the Azima et al reference discloses Applicant's invention.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 further defines the piezo electric member to have an area smaller than the piezo electric vibration plate. This enables the piezo electric member to be spaced from, and out of contact with, the sound board. The piezo electric plate is supported on the sound board.

The art relied on by the Examiner, specifically Azima et al, fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. In Figures 14 and 15, the piezo electric member is directly coupled to the sound board. Also, the Azima et al reference fails to disclose or suggest the vibration plate coupled to the sound board with the piezo electric member having area smaller than the vibration plate. Thus, the Azima et al reference, cited by the Examiner, fails to anticipate or disclose or suggest Applicant's invention.

Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1 to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2 through 8, which depend from Claim 1, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

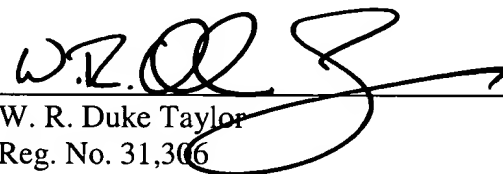


In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at attorney at (248) 641-2600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 10, 2004

By:

  
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